

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00689 230529Z

17  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ACDA-05

/059 W  
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R 222315Z JUL 75  
FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 690  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0689

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: MILI, PP  
SUBJ: PNG DEFENSE FORCE LOCALIZATION TO BE INCREASED

REF: PORT MORESBY A-16, A-17, A-18

1. LOCAL PRESS JULY 22 REPORTS STATEMENT OF MINISTER DEFENSE, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE AT PNGDF LEADERSHIP COURSE AT GOLDIE RIVER TRAINING DEPOT THAT THE PACE OF LOCALIZATION IN THE DEFENSE FORCE MUST BE STEPPED UP.

2. KIKI OBSERVED THAT IN THE PAST ARMY AND NAVY NCO'S AND OFFICERS HAD TO GO THROUGH THE SAME COURSES AS THEIR AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPARTS AND THEN GRADUALLY WORK THEIR WAY UP THE SYSTEM. THIS PROCEDURE PRESUPPOSED AN ABUNDANT POOL OF AUSTRALIANS TO CALL UPON AND NO PRESSURE FOR LOCALIZATION. "BUT THIS HAS ALL CHANGED. THERE ARE CERTAIN POSITIONS IN THIS DEPARTMENT WHICH MUST BE FILLED BY NATIONAL OFFICERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO ACCEPT A LESSER DEGREE OF EXPERTISE WHILE THE NEW INCUMBENT IS FINDING HIS FEET." HE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY BY PLACING NATIONAL OFFICERS IN  
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DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS COULD THE GOVERNMENT ENSURE

THAT EVERY DECISION AFFECTING THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT  
WOULD BE IN THE COUNTRY'S BEST INTEREST.

3. COMMENT: KIKI'S REMARKS SUBSTANTIALLY MODIFY IF  
NOT REVISE THE PNGDF LOCALIZATION POLICY OUTLINED BY  
COL. DIRO IN PORT MORESBY'S A-17 AND CONFIRMS THE  
BELIEF EXPRESSED IN PORT MORESBY'S A-16 THAT THE  
ELABORATE TRAINING STRUCTURE MANNED BY AUSTRALIANS  
AND HIGH STANDARDS MAINTAINED FOR PNGDF OFFICERS AT  
THE JOINT SERVICES COLLEGE AT LAE AND GOLDIE RIVER  
WOULD NOT LONG SURVIVE THE PRESSURES FOR MORE RAPID  
LOCALIZATION.

4. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH POLOFF, COL. DIRO (DEPUTY  
COMMANDER, PNGDF) NOTED THAT PRESSURES TO PROMOTE A  
CHIMBU MAJOR WHO WAS NOT YET FULLY PREPARED TO LT. COL.  
HAD BEEN RESISTED ONLY WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. DIRO  
WILL DOUBTLESS ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN AS HIGH STANDARD  
AS POSSIBLE DESPITE THE PUSH FOR MORE RAPID LOCALIZATION.  
NEVERTHELESS, HE TOO SEES THE PATH TO THE FUTURE, AND  
INFORMED THE CONGEN THAT THE DEFENSE FORCE IS ENCOUNTERING  
DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS FROM MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE  
INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO TAKE ORDERS FROM AUSTRALIAN  
OFFICERS. DIRO HIMSELF WILL PROBABLY BE ELEVATED TO  
COMMANDER SHORTLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE IF NOT BEFORE.

5. NEITHER PNG NOR AUSTRALIA WOULD BE KEEN TO HAVE  
AUSTRALIANS INVOLVED IN ANY MILITARY ACTION REQUIRED  
TO QUELL SECESSION OR DEAL WITH INTERNAL THREATS TO  
THE STATE, AND THE RECURRING WAVES OF SECESSIONIST  
ACTIVITY ADD TO THE PRESSURES FOR LOCALIZATION.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Film Number:** D750253-1060  
**From:** PORT MORESBY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750733/aaaabdw.tel  
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**TAGS:** MILI, PP, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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